

Application No. 09/991,389
Amendment "A" dated August 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed June 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering advertisement content to a viewer according to an advertising plan that is executed in a system that includes, including at least one processor, configured to display advertisements to a viewer, a method for delivering advertisement content for an advertisement to at least one receiver module for subsequent display to the viewer, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at a control module, for each advertisement, a schedule defining a particular period of time during which the advertisement should be displayed, and a location for the display of the advertisement, an indicator of the advertisement type, and a weight for the advertisement, wherein the weight defining the frequency of display of the advertisement is used to determine an order and frequency to display the advertisement during the defined period of time and is defined by an advertising impression goal divided by a total number of available impressions for a defined target criteria;

generating a data file defining, for each advertisement, the advertising type, weight, location, and schedule for display of the advertisement content for the advertisement; and

upon retrieving the advertisement content for the advertisement, delivering the advertisement content and the data file to at least one receiver module configured to display the advertisement content of the advertisement in accordance with the data file in such a way as to satisfy the advertising impression goal, and such that the advertisement is displayed in an order and frequency defined by the weight of the advertisement relative to one or more other advertisements.

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2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving, for each advertisement, the schedule, the location, the advertising type and the weight comprises receiving from a planning module remote from the control module, for each advertisement, the schedule, the location, the advertising type and the weight.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein receiving, for each advertisement, the schedule, the location, the advertising type and the weight comprises receiving continuously, periodically, or sporadically the schedule, the advertising type, and the weight from the planning module.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of generating the data file comprises the acts of:

defining at least one attribute from at least one of:

a schedule time for the advertisement;

a display area for the advertisement;

a duration of the advertisement;

a time zone shift for the advertisement schedule time;

an indicator of type of the advertisement;

a weight of the advertisement; and

a demographic target of the advertisement; and

storing the at least one attribute at the receiver module.

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5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein delivering the advertisement content and the data file comprises:

identifying a time when the advertisement content is to be displayed to the viewer;

identifying a rule stored at the control module, the rule defining when to deliver the advertisement content and the data file; and

based upon the time and the rule, delivering the advertisement content and the data file to the at least one receiver module.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein delivering the advertisement content and the data file comprises delivering the advertisement content and the data file to the at least one receiver module.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein an individual scheduling the advertisement content defines the advertising impression goal used to define the advertising weight.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the advertising type defines whether the advertising weight is an absolute weight or a relative weight.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving historical data from the at least one receiver module, the historical data defining the viewing activities of the viewer at the at least one receiver module.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the advertising type defines the advertisement as either a committed advertisement or a flexible advertisement.

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11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing the method recited in claim 1, for implementing in a system, including at least one processor, configured to display an advertisement to a viewer, a method for delivering advertisement content of the advertisement to at least one receiver module for subsequent display to the viewer, the computer program product comprising:

~~a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions for implementing the method, wherein the computer executable instructions comprise:~~

~~program code means for receiving, at a control module, a schedule for the display of the advertisement, an indicator of the advertisement type, and a weight for the advertisement, the weight defining the frequency of display of the advertisement;~~

~~program code means for generating a data file defining the advertising type, weight and schedule for display of the advertisement; and~~

~~program code means for delivering the advertisement content of the advertisement and the data file to at least one receiver module configured to display the advertisement content of the advertisement in accordance with the data file.~~

12. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for receiving from a planning module remote from the control module the schedule and the weight.

13. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for receiving continuously, periodically, or sporadically the schedule, the advertising type and the weight from the planning module.

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14. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise:

program code means for defining at least one attribute from at least one of:

- a schedule time for the advertisement;
- a duration of the advertisement;
- a time zone shift of the advertisement;
- an indicator of type for the advertisement schedule;
- a weight of the advertisement;
- a demographic target for the advertisement; and
- a display area for the advertisement; and

program code means for storing the at least one attribute.

15. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise:

program code means for identifying a time when the advertisement is to be displayed to the viewer;

program code means for identifying a rule stored at the control module, the rule defining when to deliver the advertisement content of the advertisement and the data file; and

based upon the time and the rule, program code means for delivering the advertisement content of the advertisement and the data file to the at least one receiver module.

16. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for delivering the advertisement content of the advertisement and the data file to the at least one receiver module.

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17. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for defining an advertising type where the advertising type determines whether the advertising weight is an absolute weight or a relative weight.

18. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for receiving historical data from the at least one receiver module, the historical data defining the viewing activities of the viewer at the at least one receiver module.

19-48 (Cancelled).

49. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the location defines a particular location on a screen of displayed video where the advertisement should be rendered.

50. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the location defines where the advertisement should be rendered on an EPG.

51. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the location defines where the advertisement should be rendered on a game.

52. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the location defines a geographically defined market where the advertisement should be displayed.

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53. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein schedule further defines a particular duration during which the advertisement should be displayed during the defined period of time.

54. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, further including:

after receiving the weight at the receiver module, readjusting the weight for the advertisement based on available advertising inventory so as to implement the plan.

55. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the location defines a particular location on a screen of displayed video where the advertisement should be rendered.

56. (New) program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the location defines where the advertisement should be rendered on an EPG.

57. (New) program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the location defines where the advertisement should be rendered on a game.

58. (New) program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the location defines a geographically defined market where the advertisement should be displayed.

59. (New) A program product as recited in claim 11, wherein schedule further defines a particular duration during which the advertisement should be displayed during the defined period of time.

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60. (New) program product as recited in claim 11, further including:

after receiving the weight at the receiver module, readjusting the weight for the advertisement based on available advertising inventory so as to implement the plan.